

HOUSE BILL 551  
By Bunch

AN ACT to create a special joint committee to study funding of elementary and secondary education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. There is created a special joint committee to study the manner in which elementary and secondary education is funded in this state.

SECTION 2. The committee is charged with the study of methods and means of funding elementary and secondary education in this state. The committee shall study the Basic Education Program. The committee shall explore and study alternative methods and means for funding K-12 education in this state. The committee may explore and study methods and means of funding elementary and secondary education as used in other states. The committee may explore and study methods and means of funding Pre-K education.

SECTION 3. The committee shall consist of six (6) members of the house of representatives and six (6) members of the senate. The chair of the education committee of the house of representatives and the chair of the education committee of the senate shall serve on the committee as well as the prime sponsors in the house of representatives and the senate of the bill that was enacted as this act. The speaker of the house shall appoint the remaining house members of the committee and the speaker of the senate shall appoint the remaining senate members of the committee. In appointing members to the committee, the speakers shall appoint members so that equal representation of urban, suburban, and rural school districts is achieved.

SECTION 4. All appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee.

SECTION 5. The special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the general assembly; and at its first meeting the special joint committee shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

SECTION 6. The special joint committee shall report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation to the governor and the general assembly by January 15, 2006, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.